

Appln No. 10/603,362

Amdt date May 6, 2004

Reply to Office action of March 9, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-23 are currently pending in this application.

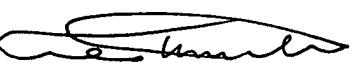
Claims 1-8 are cancelled and claims 17-23 are added.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 16 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,611,568. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9-16 are allowed. Applicants submit that the new claims 17-23 are also patentable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

Raymond R. Tabandeh

Reg. No. 43,945

626/795-9900

RRT/clv

CLV PAS564036.1--05/6/04 2:21 PM